THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Strike in Jute mills falls in the State sphere. In this case State Government of West Bengal is the appropriate Government and, therefore, legally vested with the powers to intervene in the matter. Government of West Bengal have informed that they have received the joint memorandum from Central trade unions to intervene into the ongoing strike in jute mills of West Bengal. The State Government is very much concerned on the prolonged strike in jute industry and is vigorously striving to come to a solution. Nine joint conferences and several separate discussions have been held. Tripartite negotiations are still going on. Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment had also called a meeting of the representatives of the Central Trade Unions, local trade unions of West Bengal, Jute Mill Owners, Officers of the West Bengal Government and Ministry of Textiles on 14.02.07 but the dispute could not be resolved.

**Rising unemployment in the country**

985. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment in the country is rising at nine percent per annum, with employment opportunities dipping correspondingly;

(b) if so, the details for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether over 52 lakh graduates are in the waitlist for employment;

(d) if so, the details thereof with employment generated and given over the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(e) whether unemployment allowance is given for unemployed youth; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made by the Centre to enhance employment opportunities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There were 5252.5 thousand graduate and post graduate job seekers on the live register of employment exchanges (latest available) as on 31.12.2004. State-wise details of placement of job seekers effected through employment exchanges over the last three years 2002-04 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(e) The Central Government does not provide unemployment allowance.

(f) Tenth Plan targeted creation of around 50 million employment opportunities, 30 million through normal growth process and 20 million through special employment generation schemes. Besides, launching of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which provides for at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household in the rural areas whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The approach paper to Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million employment opportunities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

***Statement***

*State-wise number of graduates and post graduates job seekers placed in employment through employment exchanges during the year*

| Sl. No. | State/Union Territory | Placements made during the year (In Actual Number) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 327 | 798 | 465 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 19 | 18 | 18 |
| 4. | Bihar | 12 | 22 | 2 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 68 | 76 | 38 |
| 6. | Delhi | 12 | 160 | 12 |
| 7. | Goa | 208 | 208 | 178 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 2123 | 1270 | 2601 |
| 9. | Haryana | 94 | 74 | 64 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 468 | 962 | 282 |
| 11. | Jammu & Kashmir | — | — | — |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 475 | 190 | 201 |
| 14. | Kerala | 4005 | 4074 | 1892 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 126 | 215 | 112 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 1216 | 1943 | 2394 |
| 17. | Manipur | — | — | — |
| 18. | Meghalaya | — | 1 | 3 |
| 19. | Mizoram | — | — | — |
| 20. | Nagaland | 4 | 11 | 4 |
| 21. | Orissa | 487 | 282 | 521 |
| 22. | Punjab | 418 | 250 | 453 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 145 | 220 | 663 |
| 24. | Sikkim* | — | — | — |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 4000 | 6906 | 5878 |
| 26. | Tripura | — | 55 | 74 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 985 | 1472 | 1712 |
| 28. | Uttar Pradesh | 105 | 318 | 514 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 1808 | 1899 | 1626 |
| 30. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 25 | 257 | 28 |
| 31. | Chandigarh | 515 | 351 | 140 |
| 32. | D & N Haveli | 67 | 2 | 202 |
| 33. | Daman & Diu | — | — | — |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 8 | 71 | 19 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 823 | 67 | 137 |
| | TOTAL: | 18544 | 22178 | 20241 |

* No Employment Exchanges are functioning in this State.